

TO: GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
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Opposition to HB 24 and HB 4433

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I too agree that the Ten Commandments reflect fundamental and moral values for a civilized society that is as relevant today in 2005 as it was when presented by Moses. I wish everyone in society believed in these principles and lived their lives reflecting these principles. They don't and never will. That is their personal right under our state/federal constitution. Our judicial system and governing laws based upon these fundamental operating principles for society punishes those who do not live their lives according to the moral guidelines of the Ten Commandments.

I oppose the display of the Ten Commandments by government on government property or in government buildings because:

- A truly free and democratic society separates Church and State.
- Our Country was founded on the separation of Church and State by those who had been persecuted for their religious and political beliefs.
- It violates many sections of Michigan's Constitution that assures Michigan residents protection of their civil and political rights to not be discriminated against because of their religious beliefs.
- It violates the law that "no money shall be appropriated or drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any religious sect or society....nor shall property belonging to the state be appropriated for any such purpose
- Religion and religious principles are personal. They cannot be dictated or forced on an individual or society at large.
- The display of moral principles in a government building will not have any impact on the decisions or immoral acts of individuals or society at large
- The display of the Ten Commandments will not impact, impart or influence better decision in the judicial system or law making by legislators.
- The display of the Ten Commandments on government owned property will only represent a political victory by legislators or lobbyists.
- It may not be necessary to propose displaying the Ten Commandments if all those who support these proposed bills exemplified these moral fundamental guidelines in their daily lives, decision making and relationships.

Becky Gilpin